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SECURITY INFORMATION

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German Democratic Republic

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PLANNED CONSTRUCTION OF HOUSING, CONSTRUCTION BOTTLENECKS, AND RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

(3 pag German)

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This document consists of [] the following two typewritten reports.

1) One-page report, dated [] on the GDR's construction program for dwelling units, as provided by the Five-Year Plan. During the period 1 January 1951 - 31 December 1955, the building of 300,000 dwelling units is planned. 20,000 dwellings, including buildings of the 1950 construction-backlog, are scheduled to be constructed in 1951, and 30,000 dwellings are to be built in 1952. When asked, at a conference held at the Ministry of Construction [] how this construction project could be accomplished in view of the materials situation, Robert Siewert, one of the Main-Department heads, replied that such projects must be established, even if it is known that it is impossible to execute them, in order that their propaganda value can be exploited.

2) Two-page report, dated []

a) Shortage of Materials and Equipment. All construction projects which are not controlled by the Ministry of Heavy Industry, and, therefore, are not key building-projects, are confronted with a shortage of boilers, radiators and pipes for central-heating systems. For this reason the planned quota cannot be fulfilled. Although Kerber, State Secretary for Materials Procurement, has directed that the GDR's inner reserves be mobilized, it is doubtful that this will be effective in easing the construction bottlenecks, since the GDR has long been trying to remedy its material-shortages by using its inner reserves. Furthermore, it was directed that the permission of Kerber for the installation of heating equipment is to be requested only if the required material is already stored at the construction site. Another regulation requires that radiators made of porcelain should be used in place of cast-iron radiators. In this connection, it is pointed out that according to a referent of the Main Administration for the Construction Industry, the most recent output of the industry, amounting to about 2,000 tons of boiler installations and radiators was shipped to the USSR as reparations.

b) The reconstruction of the Berlin State Opera House, located on "Unter den Linden" Boulevard, has recently been decided upon. The estimated cost of this project, scheduled for completion in July 1953, is 60 million East marks; these funds have been guaranteed, and are already incorporated in the 1952 investment plan.

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